

## CLAIMS

1. A customizable absorbent article comprising:  
an extensible body facing layer having a first end and a second  
end spaced along a longitudinal axis, wherein said body facing layer is  
5 extensible along said longitudinal axis;  
an extensible garment facing layer having a first end and a  
second end spaced along said longitudinal axis, wherein said garment facing  
layer is extensible along said longitudinal axis; and  
a non-extensible absorbent core disposed between said body  
10 facing layer and said garment facing layer; and  
wherein said absorbent core is affixed to at least one of said  
body facing and said garment facing layer at at least one location between  
said first and second ends.
2. The customizable absorbent article of claim 1, said body facing  
15 layer having at least one aperture therein and exposing a surge layer,  
disposed between said body facing layer and said garment facing layer, to a  
body of a user.
3. The customizable absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said  
garment facing layer further comprises a releasable attachment component.
- 20 4. The customizable absorbent article of claim 3, wherein said  
attachment component comprises discrete areas of mechanical fastener, said  
discrete areas being disposed at said first and second ends of said garment-  
facing layer.
- 25 5. The customizable absorbent article of claim 3, wherein said  
attachments component comprises discrete areas of mechanical fastener,  
said discrete areas being disposed in a pattern on said garment-facing layer.

6. The customizable absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said absorbent core is anchored to at least said garment facing layer by embossing.

5 7. The customizable absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said core comprises a first and second end, said second end having slits approximately along a longitudinal axis, and wherein said first end of said core and said second end of said core are movable relative to one another along said lateral axis.

10 8. The customizable absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said body facing layer and said garment facing layer are comprised of a single piece of extensible material encasing said absorbent core.

15 9. The customizable absorbent article of claim 1, wherein said body facing layer and said garment facing layer are individual sheets of extensible material, and wherein said body facing layer and said garment facing layer are attached to one another along outer peripheries of said layers.

20 10. A customizable absorbent article comprising:  
an extensible body facing layer having a first side and a second side spaced along a lateral axis, wherein said body facing layer is extensible along said lateral axis;

an extensible garment facing layer having a first side and a second side spaced along said lateral axis, wherein said garment facing layer is extensible along said lateral axis; and

25 a non-extensible absorbent core disposed between said body facing layer and said garment facing layer; and

wherein said absorbent core is affixed to at least one of said body facing and said garment facing layer at at least one location between said first and second sides.

11. The customizable absorbent article of claim 10, said body facing layer having at least one aperture therein and exposing a surge layer, disposed between said body facing layer and said garment facing layer, to a body of a user.

5 12. The customizable absorbent article of claim 10, wherein said garment facing layer further comprises a releasable attachment component.

10 13. The customizable absorbent article of claim 12, wherein said attachment component comprises discrete areas of mechanical fastener, said discrete areas being disposed at said first and second ends of said garment-facing layer.

14. The customizable absorbent article of claim 12, wherein said attachments component comprises discrete areas of mechanical fastener, said discrete areas being disposed in a pattern on a garment-facing surface of said garment-facing layer.

15 15. The customizable absorbent article of claim 10, wherein said absorbent core is anchored to at least said garment facing layer by embossing.

20 16. The customizable absorbent article of claim 10, wherein said core comprises a first and second side, said second side having slits approximately along a lateral axis, and wherein said slitted core is movable relative to one another along said longitudinal axis.

17. The customizable absorbent article of claim 10, wherein said body facing layer and said garment facing layer are comprised of a single piece of extensible material encasing said absorbent core.

25 18. The customizable absorbent article of claim 10, wherein said body facing layer and said garment facing layer are individual sheets of extensible material, and wherein said body facing layer and said garment

facing layer are attached to one another along outer peripheries of said layers.

19. A customizable absorbent article comprising:

an extensible body facing layer having a first end and a second  
5 end spaced along a longitudinal axis, wherein said body facing layer is  
extensible along said longitudinal axis;

an extensible garment facing layer having a first end and a  
second end spaced along said longitudinal axis, wherein said garment facing  
layer is extensible along said longitudinal axis;

10 an absorbent pledget having a length;

a first absorbent layer having a first portion and a second  
portion, said first and second portions being movable relative to each other  
from a pre-use condition, wherein said first portion and said second portion  
are approximately adjacent one another, to a post use condition, wherein said  
15 first portion and said second portion are separated from one another by a  
distance which is equal to or less than said length of said pledget; and

wherein a portion of said pledget is exposed to at least one of  
said body facing layer and said garment facing layer when said first and  
second portions of said absorbent layer are in said post-use condition.

20 20. The customizable absorbent article of claim 19, wherein said  
article further comprises a second absorbent layer having a first portion and a  
second portion, said first and second portions being movable relative to each  
other from a pre-use condition, wherein said first portion and said second  
portions are approximately adjacent one another, to a post-use condition,  
25 wherein said first portion and said second portion are separated from one  
another by a second distance equal to or less than said length of said pledget.

21. The customizable absorbent article of claim 19, said body facing  
layer having at least one aperture therein.

22. The customizable absorbent article of claim 19, wherein said  
30 garment facing layer has a body-side surface and a garment side surface, and

wherein said garment-side surface includes a releasable attachment component.

5           23.     The customizable absorbent article of claim 22, wherein said attachment component comprises discrete areas of mechanical fasteners, said discrete areas being disposed at said first and second ends of said garment-facing layer.

10           24.     The customizable absorbent article of claim 22, wherein said attachment components comprises discrete areas of mechanical fasteners, said discrete areas being disposed in a pattern on said garment-facing surface of said garment-facing layer.

          25.     The customizable absorbent article of claim 19, wherein said body facing layer and said garment facing layer are comprised of a single piece of extensible material encasing at least said first absorbent layer and said absorbent pledget.

15           26.     The customizable absorbent article of claim 19, wherein said body facing layer and said garment facing layer are individual sheets of extensible material, and wherein said body facing layer and said garment facing layer are attached to one another along outer peripheries of said layers.

20           27.     A customizable absorbent article comprising:  
                  an extensible body facing layer having a first end and a second end spaced along a lateral axis, wherein said body facing layer is extensible along said lateral axis;

                  an extensible garment facing layer having a first end and a second end spaced along said lateral axis, wherein said garment facing layer is extensible along said lateral axis;

25                   an absorbent pledget having a width;  
                  a first absorbent layer having a first portion and a second portion, said first and second portions being movable relative to each other

from a pre-use condition, wherein said first portion and said second portion are approximately adjacent one another, to a post use condition, wherein said first portion and said second portion are separated from one another by a distance which is equal to or less than said width of said pledget; and

5                    wherein a portion of said pledget is exposed to at least one of said body facing layer and said garment facing layer when said first and second portions of said absorbent layer are in said post-use condition.

28.     The customizable absorbent article of claim 27, wherein said article further comprises a second absorbent layer having a first portion and a  
10           second portion, said first and second portions being movable relative to each other from a pre-use condition, wherein said first portion and said second portions are approximately adjacent one another, to a post-use condition, wherein said first portion and said second portion are separated from one another by a second distance equal to or less than said width of said pledget.

15           29.     The customizable absorbent article of claim 27, said body facing layer having at least one aperture therein.

30.     The customizable absorbent article of claim 27, wherein said garment facing layer has a body-side surface and a garment side surface, and wherein said garment-side surface includes a releasable attachment  
20           component.

31.     The customizable absorbent article of claim 30, wherein said attachment component comprises discrete areas of mechanical fasteners, said discrete areas being disposed along said first and second ends of said garment-facing layer.

25           32.     The customizable absorbent article of claim 30, wherein said attachment components comprises discrete areas of mechanical fasteners, said discrete areas being disposed in a pattern along said garment-facing surface of said garment-facing layer.

33. The customizable absorbent article of claim 27, wherein said body facing layer and said garment facing layer are comprised of a single piece of extensible material encasing at least said first absorbent layer and said absorbent pledget.

5 34. The customizable absorbent article of claim 27, wherein said body facing layer and said garment facing layer are individual sheets of extensible material, and wherein said body facing layer and said garment facing layer are attached to one another along outer peripheries of said layers.

10 35. A customizable absorbent article comprising:  
an extensible body facing layer having a first end and a second end spaced along a longitudinal axis, wherein said body facing layer is extensible along said longitudinal axis;  
an extensible garment facing layer having a first end and a  
15 second end spaced along said longitudinal axis, wherein said garment facing layer is extensible along said longitudinal axis;  
an absorbent core that is substantially permanently deformable, said absorbent core being manually movable from a pre-use condition, wherein said absorbent core has a first thickness, to an in-use condition,  
20 wherein said absorbent core has a second thickness that is different than said thickness of said absorbent core in said pre-use condition; and  
wherein said absorbent core is minimally affixed to at least one of said body facing layer and said garment facing layer.

25 36. The customizable absorbent article of claim 35, wherein said first thickness of said absorbent core is greater than said second thickness.

37. The customizable absorbent article of claim 35, wherein said first thickness of said absorbent core is less than said second thickness.

38. A customizable absorbent article comprising:

a cover layer movable between a pre-use condition and an in-use condition; and

a resilient inner core movable between a pre-use condition and an in-use condition, wherein said inner core has a first thickness when in said pre-use condition and wherein said inner core has a second thickness when in said in-use condition;

said inner core being movable from said pre-use condition to said in-use condition by moving said cover layer from said pre-use condition to said in-use condition.

39. The customizable absorbent article of claim 38, wherein said first thickness is greater than said second thickness.

40. The customizable absorbent article of claim 38, wherein said first thickness is less than said second thickness.

41. The customizable absorbent article of claim 38, wherein said resilient inner core further comprises a second pre-use condition, wherein said inner core has a third thickness.

42. A method for absorbing bodily exudates with a customizable absorbent article, the method comprising:

providing said customizable absorbent comprising an extensible body facing layer having a first end and a second end spaced along a longitudinal axis, wherein said body facing layer is extensible along said longitudinal axis; an extensible garment facing layer having a first end and a second end spaced along said longitudinal axis, wherein said garment facing layer is extensible along said longitudinal axis; and a non-extensible absorbent core disposed between said body facing layer and said garment facing layer; and wherein said absorbent core is affixed to at least one of said body facing and said garment facing layer at at least one location between said first and second ends; and

manually adjusting said customizable absorbent article along said longitudinal axis by applying force along said axis, thereby deforming



said extensible absorbent body facing layer and said garment facing layer;  
and

securing said absorbent article to an undergarment.